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YUGOSLAV STARCH, SUGAR, AND SALT PRODUCTION

CONSTRUCTION OF STARCH-PROCESSING COMBINE -- Zagreb, Duga, No 256, 50

The Combine for Processing Starch is under construction at Zrenjanin. The combine's factories will have joint sources of raw materials and joint administration, transport facilities, power network, and test laboratories. Almost all the installations and equipment will be built by the "Jedinstvo" Food and Chemical Industry Equipment Factory in Zagreb and the mill equipment factory in Stupnik.

The combine has access to excellent transportation facilities. It is close to a standard-gauge railroad, the Begej River, and the Belgrade-Zrenjanin highway. A large granary, parts of which are 50 meters high, is being built near Begej. It will be able to hold tens of thousands of tons of grain.

After the completion of the harvest in the fall, the combine will accept around 4,000 tons of sugar beets and corn daily. These will be made into sugar starch, and other products. From starch, its most important product, the combine will produce crystalline sugar and syrup to be used in preserving fruit.

Crystalline glucose and other hitherto unexploited kinds of sugar will now be used in Yugoslav households just as beet sugar is used at present; it will also be used extensively in confectionery. The combine will produce 40 kilograms of this new kind of sugar from 100 kilograms of corn. The combine expects to increase the total Yugoslav production of sugar by 10 percent.

The following have been built to date: a section for soaking corn, a section for wet starch, two large warehouses, and various other auxiliary buildings.

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DEVELOPMENT OF SALT BASIN -- Zagreb, Jugoslavenski Mornar, Aug 50

Huge salt basins extend over an area of 100,000 square meters around Ston. Four more large saltworks are at Pag, Pirance, Kopa, and Ulcinj. The last was discovered some 10 years ago; all the others are centuries old. Smaller saltworks at Sv. Djurdj (near Kotor), Bojana, and Drijevac (near Gabel) have ceased operation.

Salt production in prewar Yugoslavia varied from 1 to 2 million tons annually. Production increased significantly in the first years after the liberation; it had increased to more than 4 million tons in the first two postwar years. This increase was due to changes in some work procedures. One of the most significant changes is that of working with lower water in the salt basins, thus inducing rapid crystallization of the salt and attaining much higher productiveness. In addition, drainage canals have been diverted to new points, thus significantly decreasing the infiltration of fresh water into the basins. This operation also hastens crystallization, as the penetration of fresh water into the basins retards crystallization.

The plan for further development of the saltworks around Ston is to extend them to about 100,000 square meters. This extension is projected along the southwest lowland side of Ston Bay toward Broce. A crane is to be installed to carry salt from the basin to the drainage area. The crane will move on rails along the entire length of the basin. At present, the workers still transport the salt from the basin on their shoulders.

Fair, sunny, and windy weather this year had a beneficial effect on salt production, which was high. Some years salt can be collected about every 15 days starting at the beginning of July. Five or six collections take place annually, depending on the intensity of evaporation of the water. Gray salt is no longer present in the salt basins, as all basins are paved so that the salt beds do not come in contact with the soil.

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